



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office**

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
117957-1005	12/18/98	FOX	B 117957-1005

PHILIP G MEYERS  
GARDERE & WYNNE  
1601 ELM STREET  
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DALLAS TX 75201

LM41/1104

EXAMINER

ALAN, S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2777

DATE MAILED:

11/04/99

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

**NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE**

LM41/1104

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
09/215,922	12/18/98	015	ALAM, S	2777 11/04/99
First Named Applicant	FOX,	35 USC 154(b) term ext. =		

TITLE OF INVENTION    METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR INVENTORY MANAGEMENT

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEE DUE	DATE DUE
2	117957-1005	707-104.000	D79	UTILITY	YES \$605.00	02/04/00

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.**

**THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.**

**HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:**

**I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.**

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

**II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.**

**III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.**

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

**PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY**

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/215,922

Applicant(s)

Billy Shane Fox

Examiner

Shahid Alam

Group Art Unit

2777



All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed on Dec 18, 1998.

☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.

☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are acceptable.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been  
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☐ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

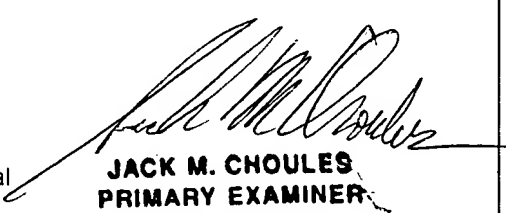
☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

  
**JACK M. CHOULES**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
**ART UNIT 2777**

Art Unit: 2777

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Reasons For Allowance***

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art teaches a method for efficiently and accurately managing the scheduling of programs, the acquisition of media copies of programs, the management of an inventory of the media copies, and the exhibitions of the programs throughout a predetermined period of time (Clark: U.S. Patent Number 5,383,112), a system that creates detailed forecasts of sales before generating profit maximizing sets of requisitions and/or manufacturing work orders that maintain finished goods inventory at the levels required to maintain user-specified service standards, while satisfying the financial constraints forecast by the system and user specified constraints, during the next 1 to 78 time periods (Eder: U.S. Patent Number 5,615,109), the system utilizes means for automatically determining which items in the JIT (Just-In-Time) inventory are likely to require replenishment. The system then proposes a purchase order or transfer order for an optimum quantity of the item, which the CSR (Customer Service Representative) may accept or modify (Johnson et al.: U.S. Patent Number 5,712,989) and a system forming a computer based communications network between network members having filter means for controlling the communication linkage between such network members based upon chosen filter conditions set up by the network members and the system to satisfy one or more requests for quotation from the network members (Giovannoli: U.S. Patent Number 5,758,328).

Art Unit: 2777

2. The present invention relates to a system and method for handling intermittent placement of orders and reservations for media commercial time by advertiser, agencies, and customers while optimizing the sale value of the remaining media commercial inventory available for sale to advertisers, agencies, and customers.

3. Hence, the prior art of record neither teaches nor fairly suggests in a combination elements as recited in claims 1, 9 and 14 and more specially, recalculating pricing data with the yield management system in a manner consistent with a pricing strategy implemented by the yield management system, so that price changes caused by a reduction in available inventory due to the customer request are taken into account.

4. Claims 2-8, 10-13 and 15 are dependent on claims 1, 9 and 14 respectively and since 1, 9 and 14 have allowable subject matter, claims 2-8, 10-13 and 15 are also allowed.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2777

***Contact Information***

Direct inquiries concerning this communication should be directed to Shahid Alam whose telephone number is (703) 305-2358. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anton Fetting, can be reached at (703) 305-8449.

***Any response to this action should be mailed to:***

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

***or faxed to:***

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

***or:***

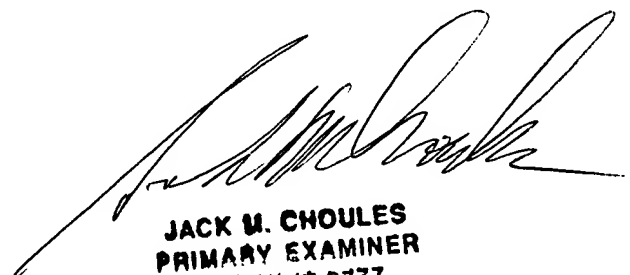
(703) 305-9724 or (703) 308 6606 or (703) 308-5403 (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Inquiries of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Shahid Alam

November 2, 1999



**JACK M. CHOULES  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 2777**